REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-3, 5-7, 10-11 and 13 are amended. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Request for Acknowledgment of Claim for Priority and Receipt of Certified Copies of the Priority Documents

The April 7, 2003 Office Action does not acknowledge the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119 and does not acknowledge receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents. The claim for foreign priority was made and the certified copies of the priority documents were filed on June 6, 2001. Applicants have enclosed a copy of "PTO Receipt for Filing of Papers" which was stamped by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to confirm the claim for foreign priority and the receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents. Acknowledgement of the claim for foreign priority and receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents is respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Satisfy the Requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 5-13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as indefinite. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 10-11 and 13 are amended to obviate the objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

III. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as unpatentable over JP 2000-029900 to Ichikawa et al. ("Ichikawa"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Ichikawa does not disclose "a material balance coefficient which stores a ratio in which the chemical substance is discharged and transferred by every separate whereabouts of the chemical substance including at least one of air, water basin and a product corresponding to the chemical substance," as recited in claims 1 and 5.

The Office Action asserts that Ichikawa teaches the material balance coefficient, which stores a ratio in which the chemical substance is discharged and transferred by every separate whereabouts of the chemical substance including air, water basin and a product. However, Ichikawa does not teach or suggest the material balance coefficient which stores a ratio in which the chemical substance is discharged and transferred.

Ichikawa teaches promoting the enrichment of a component database for registering the incorporated states of environmentally hazardous substances included in materials specified by environmental pollutant removal/transfer registration (PRTR). For example, Ichikawa teaches business corporations forming a component database for registering hazardous substances included in materials as specified by PRTR. A first supplier of material A registers in the component database a hazardous chemical substance P, which is contained by a% percent in the material A. In addition, a second supplier of material B registers in the component database the chemical substance P, which is contained by b% in the material B.

If a manufacturer wishes to manufacture a material D, which is prepared from materials A and B, the manufacturer of material D can access the information regarding material A and material B from the component database, so that the manufacturer knows the contents of the chemical substance P in the materials A and B. This permits the manufacturer of material D to calculate the content of the chemical substance P in the material D, which the manufacturer registers in the component database so that the manufacturer can supply material D to another manufacturer or customer.

However, Ichikawa does not teach a method for taking into account the discharge and transfer amounts of materials A and B to produce material D because Ichikawa does not take into account the specific manufacturing process for producing material D. For example, the discharge and transfer amount of materials A and B differ based upon the process employed to produce material D. Examples of different processes for producing material D include immersing a material in material A containing a% of the chemical substance P, coating a

material with material A containing a% of the chemical substance P, and spraying material A containing a% of the chemical substance P on a material during the manufacturing process of material D. Ichikawa does not teach or suggest this method of calculating a discharge and transfer amount of chemical substances by taking into account every separate whereabouts of the chemical substance including at least one of air, water basin and a product corresponding to the chemical substance as recited in claims 1 and 5.

Moreover, Ichikawa does not teach the step of using the searched chemical substance and the inputted material as a key for searching for the discharge and transfer ratio as recited in claims 1 and 5.

Ichikawa does not disclose "a material balance coefficient that stores a rate of which the chemical substances are discharged and transferred by every separate whereabouts of the chemical substance including at least one of air, water basin and a product in association with the chemical substances," as recited in claims 2-3 and similarly recited in claim 6.

As discussed above, Ichikawa does not teach a method for taking into account the discharge and transfer amounts of materials A and B to produce material D because Ichikawa does not take into account the specific manufacturing process for producing material D. Further, Ichikawa does not teach or suggest the method of calculating a discharge and transfer amount of chemical substances by taking into account the transfer rate when the searched chemical substances are discharged including at least one of air, water basin and a product as recited in claims 2-3 and 6.

Ichikawa does not teach or suggest "calculating the discharge amount by very separate whereabouts of the chemical substance contained in the use material by the server," as recited in claim 4. As discussed above, Ichikawa does not teach or suggest taking into account the process for applying the hazardous material and thus the discharge amount of the percentage of a hazardous chemical.

Ichikawa does not teach or suggest "the server calculating the discharge and transfer amount by very separate whereabouts of chemical substances" and "a material balance coefficient database that stores a rate of which the chemical substances are discharged and transferred by every separate whereabouts of the chemical substances including at least one of air, water basin and product in association with the chemical substances, material use step, and discharge step," as recited in claims 7-13.

As discussed above, Ichikawa does not teach or suggest taking into account the process for applying the hazardous material and thus the discharge amount of the percentage of a hazardous chemical substances. Further, Ichikawa does not teach a material balance coefficient database storing a rate of which the chemical substances are discharged and transferred.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 10-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Ichikawa in view of U.S. Publication 2002/0026339 to Frankland et al. ("Frankland"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Frankland teaches a management system for updating computer software based on changes in government regulations. The Office Action asserts that Frankland et al. teaches a material component database storing link information indicating an address of the component information of each material that exists in the material supplier server. Although, Frankland teaches a relational database, Frankland does not specifically teach a material component database.

Applicants have amended claim 11 to recite that a client terminal has restricted access to the material component database based on the type of material.

In addition, Frankland does not teach or suggest printing out in a document format or in an intensive document format discharge and transfer amount of chemical substances as recited in claims 12 or 13. Neither Ichikawa nor Frankland takes into account the

manufacturing process when calculating the discharge or transfer amount of chemical substances.

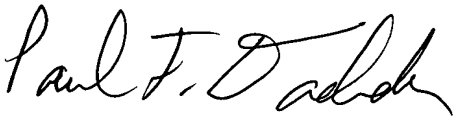
Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-13 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment: Stamped PTO Receipt for Filing of Papers

Date: July 7, 2003

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